

REMARKS

The basis of this reply after final is simple. All of the pending claims currently stand rejected as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over USP 6,864,641 (Dygert) in various combinations with other references. However, in addressing a prior rejection based in part on Dygert '641, Applicants previously submitted a Rule 131 declaration establishing a date of invention prior to the filing date of Dygert '641. (See Response to Official Action and Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.131, dated Oct. 5, 2006) Presumably as a result of that showing, the Examiner withdrew the prior rejection based on Dygert '641. (See Office Action dated November 17, 2006).

Because Applicants previously overcame Dygert '641 based on an earlier established date of invention, it is assumed that the Examiner's application of Dygert '641 to reject the instant claims in the most recent Office Action is erroneous, although apparently inadvertent. Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the final Office Action and reconsider the application as presented, omitting Dygert '641 as a reference.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

A supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith, citing two new references. Assuming that the finality of the Office Action is withdrawn, Applicants kindly request that the Examiner consider the information cited therein in connection with the instant application.

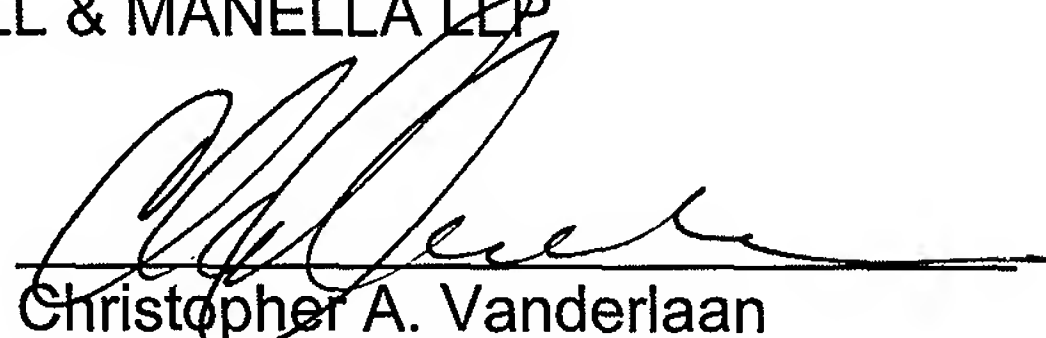
Request for Allowance

It is believed that the instant application is in condition for final allowance, and, accordingly, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Nevertheless, if any unresolved issue remains, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss those issues so that the Notice of Allowance can be mailed at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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